



AIRSCOOP

104TH FIGHTER WING • MASSACHUSETTS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Pride, Professionalism, Patriotism

Barnes Air National Guard Base

May 2010



Maj. Gen. Joseph Carter, MA Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Patrick Moisia, Deputy Director of the Air National Guard, and Maj. Gen. Garry Dean, First Air Force Commander, stand in front of the new Air Sovereignty Alert hangar at the 104th Fighter Wing on April 10, 2010 just after the official ribbon cutting ceremony. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Rob Sabonis)



Col Robert T. Brooks, Jr.

AIRSCOOP

**104th Fighter Wing
Barnes Air National
Guard Base**

Barnes Air National Guard Base
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Commander's Column

By Col. Robert T. Brooks, Jr.

Last week, I was TDY to First Air Force. I was able to hear first hand from many of our Air Force leaders that we are well on our way to becoming the most well respected F-15 unit in the Combat Air Force. That is a tribute to all the hard work **you** have done: completing the unit's conversion and standing up the Air Sovereignty Alert mission. The next step to continue down that road is to be prepared for and execute our upcoming inspections to an 'Outstanding' level.

I want to digress a little as we gear up for this ORE. We received sad news on April 20th that we lost a Massachusetts Army National Guard member, Sgt. Robert J. Barrett to an IED explosion in Kabul Afghanistan. During the explosion, 8 other members of his team were severally injured. When I heard this sobering news, I immediately began to think of all our members who are down-range, engaging with an enemy that has made its intentions clear: that they will, at all cost, fight to destroy the American way of life. At last count, we have 31 members engaging in this war, with 12 more preparing to deploy. I ask that you keep these members in mind when you go through the motions of deploying in this drill's exercise, and understanding that ultimately, that is what we all signed up to do: defend our country with our lives if needed.

Amidst all our success, we need to remember we are still an expeditionary fighting force that has both a home station mission, ASA, but also an away-game, de-

fending our freedoms wherever we are called to serve. Our exercise is just one vehicle to prepare ourselves both physically and mentally to accept that challenge when it comes.

This month we will observe Memorial Day on the 31st of May. It's a day in which the whole country pays homage to the men and women who have sacrificed their lives for the freedoms we hold so true. I ask each of you to approach this drill with a sense of purpose as you take the flag from our fallen comrades and continue on the march toward victory. As said by Sir Thomas Paine, one of America's founding fathers, "It is not a field of a few acres of ground, but a cause, that we are defending, and whether we defeat the enemy in one battle, or by degrees, the consequences will be the same."

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Command Chief Master Sergeant's Column

By Chief Master Sgt. Al Reale

Exercises, Air Shows, Deployments, Operational hurdles, challenges, achievements...what

do all these words have in common; they are all things that draw us together as a unit. I have been a part of this unit for some time now, and though things have changed considerably over the years, some constants remain. One of the things I hold more sacred than others is the bond I feel working side by side some of the greatest, hardest working, professional patriots that have ever lived.

Like most of my articles, this one is meant to motivate & inspire, (yes, that is the intent of

most of my articles). I hope I am not the only one that feels this way, but it seems some of the chaos and confusion that was status quo for the past 5 years is slowly coming to an end, and we are beginning to start a steady state of constant action. In some ways, the constant action on the horizon is far more manageable then the constant race to 're-inventing the wheel' with a new mission and a new aircraft. The point I'm trying to make is that we are past the re-inventing

stage, and now we have an opportunity to get back to some activities we are, or were, pros' at; exercises, deployments, air shows, etc.

This unit was built on, and has been recognized for, its ability to demonstrate that we are the best...then take that performance down-range and show our enemies why they should respect that we are the best. New air frame, new missions, same drive, same determination, and soon you will see same 'Outstanding' results. I am inspired each and every day by the great work we do individually and as a team, and I continue to be proud to be on the same field of battle as you. Look around, be inspired, and keep doing what we are good at, being the best.



Safety: How Goes It!

By Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Dumais

Since the last UTA, the unit has experienced 2 injuries and 5 mishaps.

Injuries

(1) Worker injured; Strained back and elbow; Slipped and fell (2) Trainee lost consciousness; No injury; Cause unknown.

Mishaps

(1) Smoke in cockpit; Suspected HUD malfunction; Cause unknown; (2) Taxi light broken; Run over by bobtail; (3) Smoke in cockpit; Suspected ECS malfunction; (4) Engine blades damaged; Found during bore scope; FOD (5) MJ1 lost steering; Broke steering actuator; Possible defect.

As we approach the upcoming Phase 1 ORE exercise, now more than ever is the time to dust off your safety hats. Anytime there is increased activity and new processes happening, the likelihood of someone getting hurt or something getting damaged in-

creases. To prevent this from happening, we need your help to help identify and control the hazards. To do this we must first identify what the hazards are. Take a look around at your processes and ask yourselves what are the hazards or potential injuries. How can someone get hurt? How can something be damaged? Many times it is something simple such as making sure our people obtain assistance while lifting to help prevent injury. In others, it may be they require PPE to prevent cuts and splinters. An extra tie down strap will also go a long way to preventing an item from falling off something. Most of our experience in the past has told us that the number one cause of a mishap or injury is someone rushing or doing something they shouldn't. We want the exercise to be a good one, and to accomplish this we need to make sure people arrive, participate, and arrive back home SAFELY. We thank you in advance for helping us get the J.O.B. done SAFELY!





First Sergeant's Column

By Master Sgt. Dominique Chapman, LRS 1st Sgt.

"When dealing with your military career, you need to plan for success; it doesn't just happen by accident or chance."

The United States Air National Guard strives to recruit, train and retain the best people possible to perform highly skilled jobs. Hiring, training, and keeping good people are challenging initiatives for any large organization. Competition for positions and promotions is challenging, and it is critical you take responsibility for your career progression in the Air National Guard. Too many times I have heard of Airman leaving their career progression in the hands of someone else, whether it be their supervisor or the MPF. Although these individuals do play a part in guiding you, they are not ultimately responsible for the total outcome. Think of your military career in three sections: technical skills, Professional Military Education (PME), and leadership/management skills.

Your first step, technical skills, you want to look at your upgrade training for 3 level, 5 level, 7 level, and 9 level. Be aware of how many months in training you will need, what core tasks need to be accomplished, and what, if any, 7 level schools are involved.

Your next step is Professional Military Education (PME). You become eligible for Airman Leadership School (ALS) as a Senior Airman. ALS is a four week course, which focuses on preparing SrA for increased responsibility. The course is divided

into three main areas: military studies, leadership, followership, and communicative skills. You must have at least 48 months TAFMS (Total Active Federal Military Service) to attend. The next step in PME is the Noncommissioned Officer Academy (NCOA). To be eligible you must be an SSgt or TSgt. NCOA is a mid-tier five and one-half week course. It is designed to better prepare selected SSgt's and TSgt's for section and branch level supervision and management responsibilities. The third PME course is the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy (SNCOA) – To be eligible you must be an MSgt. or SMSgt. This is a top-tier seven week course which focuses on advanced leadership and management techniques.

Lastly is your leadership and management skills; these skills come in time and with practice. Seek a higher level of responsibility, complete the SNCO, and actively participate in your military organization. There are always numerous opportunities offered, volunteer and get yourself noticed as someone who is looking to become a leader in the Wing.

The basic steps of a military career path in the ANG: (below is a reference – always check the most current AFI)

- Basic Military Training School
- Apprentice Technical School – 3 Level
- Upgrade to Journeyman – 5 level (min of 15 additional months of OJT)

- Airman Leadership School (ALS) – (42 months TIS with 5 level/48 months TIS w/o 5 level)
- Upgrade to Craftsmen – 7 level (min rank of Staff Sgt., min of 12 months in training, complete 7 level tech school or CDC as applicable)
- Must be 7 level for promotion to Tech. Sgt.
- Noncommissioned Officer Academy (NCOA) – (must be a Staff Sgt. or Tech. Sgt.)
- Must complete NCOA for promotion to Master Sgt.
- Senior NCO Academy (SNCOA) – (must be a Master Sgt. or Senior Master Sgt.)
- Must complete SNCOA for promotion to Senior Master Sgt.
- Upgrade to Superintendent – 9 level (min rank of Senior Master Sgt. recommended by supervisor)

You alone are responsible for your own career decisions and progression. Use all of your resources; find a mentor or even two or more of them to help you make the best decisions possible. Do all that you can to stay informed of career enhancement opportunities, and then take advantage of those opportunities!

"Think not of yourself as the architect of your career but as the sculptor. Expect to have to do a lot of hard hammering and chiseling and scraping and polishing"
- B.C. Forbes

Fitness Class / Seminar

By Lt. Col. Anita Compagnone, 104th Medical Group

Anxious about the new fitness standards, ready to finally start your new years resolutions, then please attend the Fitness Seminar from 11-12 Noon in the clinic classroom #41 on Sunday Jun 6. Learn "Tips on Starting and Sticking with Your Exercise Program." All are invited, feel free to bring your healthy lunch for the seminar.



Barnes Officially Assumes Air Sovereignty Alert Mission

By Senior Airman Matthew Benedetti, Public Affairs

On a brilliant spring afternoon, the 104th Fighter Wing officially took over duties associated with the Air Sovereignty Alert mission in a ribbon cutting ceremony held at Barnes ANGB. This historic event that took place on April 10, 2010 marks the opening of the Air Sovereignty Alert facility, renovated fire station and up-graded storage facility. The wing accepted the alert mission from the Vermont Air National Guard on February 15, 2010, and has been on active alert status since that time.



(Photo by Master Sgt. Mark W. Fortin)

Several distinguished guests were in attendance including, Maj. Gen. Garry Dean, the First Air Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Patrick Moisia, the Deputy Director of the Air National Guard, Maj. Gen. Joseph Carter, the MA Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. George Keefe (Ret), Maj. Gen. Michael Akey, the Commander of the Massachusetts Air National Guard, Brig. Gen. Thomas Sellars, Commander of the Massachusetts National Guard, Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice, Assistant Adjutant General Massachusetts National Guard, Westfield's Mayor Dan Knapik, State Senator Michael Knapik and State Representative Donald Humason.

The new unit is a component of a strategic force poised to respond to any airborne threats over New England.

"The ribbon cutting event signifies the completion of nearly 5 years of construction associated with the new mission," said Col. Robert T. Brooks, 104th Fighter Wing Commander. "In total, these projects represent nearly \$30 million in economic stimulus into the Westfield region."



(Photo by Master Sgt. Mark W. Fortin)

Maj. Gen. Michael Akey is pleased with the new mission, "We're providing air support. It's part of a network, to whatever the president calls upon. So, we're ready to go 24/7."



(Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis)

The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Joseph Carter said, "the ceremony is in honor of the Westfield community and marks a significant milestone in the history of the 104th Fighter Wing - I thank each and every one

of you for your commitment to excellence." He also specifically commended the Barnes ANG Fire Department. "During the construction period they had to conduct their operations in temporary facilities, and did so with no loss of effectiveness." Maj. Gen. Carter went on to thank Chief Lamour and all the members of the fire department for their commitment to the mission.

Maj. Gen. Garry Dean made a special trip from Tyndall AFB in Florida to attend the ceremony. "When I look at the history of this unit, I know that you can stand proud of the legacy that you have established. In my role as the Joint Forces Air Component Commander to Northcom, I see a proud record and culture of excellence at the 104th. I look forward to the years ahead performing our nation's number one mission-defending the homeland", he said. "It is a true Guard mission. The reason that I am so excited is that I know you are going to be there because you have been here for our country for over 60 years," added Maj. Gen. Dean.

"Congratulations to the great 104th for a seamless conversion from the A-10 to the F-15. Thank you for picking up the incredibly important ASA mission for the National Guard," said Maj. Gen. Patrick



(Photo by Master Sgt. Mark W. Fortin)

Operational Readiness Exercise Explained - Part I

By Senior Airman Matthew Benedetti, Public Affairs

As the Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE) approaches, a heightened attention to detail is the order of the day. Inspectors from partner Guard units are due to arrive at Barnes to conduct the ORE in preparation for the first Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) since 1998. Emails were still a novelty, beepers a standard communication device and a Red Sox World Series victory considered a remote possibility the last time Barnes was inspected by the Inspector General of the Air Combat Command (ACC).



(Photo by Technical Sgt. Melanie Casineau)

order' and within 30 days be ready to deploy as many airplanes and personnel as required for the mission." In Logistics, the tempo is high and workload great. In the fall exercise, 350 members participated by processing through the mobility line, but that number will increase to 450 during this weekend. The cargo load will be commensurate with this surge in personnel. LRS is tasked with ensuring that operations, including personnel record checks and monitoring cargo loads, proceed smoothly.

"We experienced a learning curve due to having so many new unit members, but I think we will do really well. People understand their role," Tech. Sgt. Renna said. "We have had a great deal of support from Col. Brooks and Col. Keefe."

Lt. Col. Tom Kelly is the Warlord of the ORE, and is responsible for coordinating the wings action to ensure a successful outcome. He is tasked with managing the exercise processes and directing personnel towards the applicable regulations and technical orders that they will be graded

against. He offers advice to Airmen regarding the exercise, "I recommend that you know what resources are available to you in the Deployment Smart Pack. Know your role in the work center, ask questions during this ORE, and always know what your wingman is up to," he advised. "In the past, many great ideas/saves have come from a different set of eyes looking over a process or procedure."

Safety is also a top priority throughout the exercise and inspection, and if you notice an action or situation that is not safe, call a "Knock it off." It's better to be safe than sorry, and there's nothing wrong with stopping an exercise to play it safe.



(Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Fortin)

"The ORE prepares us for the inspection next June, and is designed to determine if we can deploy all our forces and generate aircraft within a specific time frame," said Tech. Sgt. Patrick Renna of Logistics. "They want to give us a 'prepare to deploy



(Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Fortin)

History of the F-100 Memorial ~ Part IX

By (Army) Spc. Lisa Pauli

1st Lt. Joseph F. Crehore was Westfield's only casualty during the year in France. He died when his F-86 jet dove into a wooded area while flying on a low level navigation mission

near Chalons, a province of Champagne, France on March 21st, 1962. He was with the 131 Tactical Fighter Squadron, Phalsbourg AB, France.



Safety Training at Barnes

By Master Sgt. Shannon Huard, Ground/Weapons Safety NCO

On the week of 13-16 April 2010, 23 unit members along with 13 additional ANG members attended a Ground Safety Orientation Course here at the 104th. The visiting students came from as far away as Michigan and Florida. The lead Instructor was Chief Master Sgt. Nancy Breckenridge, WY ANG, 153AW, the former ANG Chief of Occupational Safety, and Senior Master Sgt. Scott Tontegode, NE ANG, 153ARW, Ground Safety Manager. During the 32 hours of classroom instruction, each of the students earned a 10-hour OSHA General Industry Card. The curriculum taught each of the students basic safety program requirements to include OSHA safety program requirements, machine guarding, fall protection, hazardous en-



ergy control, and many other items to assist them in their safety programs. The nice part about the course is one part is classroom, and the other is being able to go out into the shops and use what they have learned. This took place by the class breaking down into four separate groups and performing safety compliance inspections in Vehicle Maintenance, Aircraft Structural Repair, Jet Engine Repair Shop, and the Weapons Load Hangar.

Feedback from the students was all positive. For some it gave them another look at safety from the eyes of a compliance evaluator, and for others it was a way to see how safety ties into the overall mission. As the Ground

Safety Manager for the Wing, I look forward to the additional expertise in helping eliminate and control hazards which ultimately keeps our people and equipment safe to perform our mission. Sometimes due to time, money, or mission constraints, we find ourselves making risk decisions we wish we would never have to make. Hopefully by educating additional personnel on safety requirements we can better control the hazards. Of the 36 attendees, all will receive a 10-hour OSHA card. Great Job!



(Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis)

Cross Country Flight Welcomes Dr. Keenan

By Senior Airman Matthew Benedetti, Public Affairs

Maj. Joe Keenan's remarkable career has spanned many decades, and recently several states. He accompanied Lt. Col. Ken Fedora in an F-15 during a recent cross country flight. The flight was required to deliver the F-15 to the Oregon ANG.

After departing Westfield, they made stops in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Mountain View AFB in Idaho before arriving at the 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamouth Falls, Oregon.

For Maj. Keenan, a member of the Wing for six months, it was his first flight as a flight surgeon. The experience had an impact on the accomplished doctor who joined the Wing at a stage in life when many are preparing

to retire.

"It was a thrill and the views over the Rockies were spectacular," said Keenan, an experienced pilot. "We had some instrument conditions and some headwind, but other parts were very clear. Some areas, you could see for a 100 miles," he recalled.

Lt. Col. Fedora enjoyed the company and was pleased to show the new member aspects of flying an F-15. "Maj. Keenan is a super guy and we are lucky to have him as a member of the Wing," said Fedora.

Keenan observed, "It was a great trip - I feel very honored to be a member of the 104th."



(Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis)

National Recognition

By Maj. Matthew Mutti, Wing Executive Officer

During the months of February through April, many of the 104th Fighter Wing's members were recognized as being among the best in their respective fields. Annually the National Guard competes members from different wings and globally separated units within specified career fields to determine who is the best within the fighting force.

During the April Commander's Call, Maj. Gen. Joseph Carter, The Adjutant General, identified three members who had recently been selected for Air Reserve Component level recognition. These members competed against other members of the Logistic Readiness career field throughout the Reserve Component.

Senior Airman John Bermudez was selected as the Air Reserve Component Traffic Management Airman of the Year. He was recognized for his dedication within the TMO office, generating tickets for unit members, packing and processing cargo in relation to the F-15 mission in preparation for the ASA stand-up.



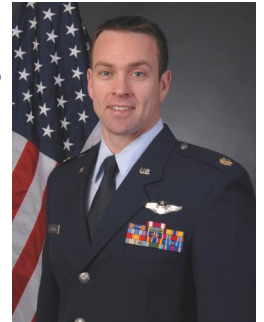
Master Sgt. Daniel Torres was identified as the Air Reserve Component Vehicle Operations Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. Master Sgt. Torres was identified for his commitment to the Vehicle Management Flight, working to ensure the unit had operational snow removal and FOD removal equipment to support the new F-15 mission. Master Sgt. Torres also deployed during the award period, supporting vehicle operations in Bagram, Afghanistan.



Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Orifice was also recognized as an Air Reserve Component leader, as the Fuels Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. Senior Master Sgt. Orifice was recognized for his efforts leading a crew of aircraft fuels specialists who are responsible for providing fuel to the 18 F-15s at Barnes, but also to any transit aircraft that comes to the base.



In addition to these members, the base had two additional members recognized in the past few months. Maj. Sean Halbrook was recognized by First Air Force as the ASA Alert Pilot of the Year. In the past year, Maj. Halbrook stood alert at multiple sites throughout the US, to include Florida and New Orleans, in preparation for the unit to stand up its alert mission on February 15th of this year.



Lastly, Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis was nationally recognized by receiving 3rd place in the National Guard Bureau's Photographer of the Year competition, as well as placing 3rd in the Illustrative Photograph category for his F-15 collage print used for retirements and other special presentations. Sabonis is the full-time Public Affairs NCO on base, and has captured many major unit milestones throughout the past year.



State Recognition

By Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis

Left to right - Tech Sgt. Kristin Martin, Staff Sgt. Stephanie Nugent, Master Sgt. Tina Dimino-Frazer, and Master Sgt. Darcie Rock (not pictured) were recognized for their outstanding accomplishment on being nominated for the Massachusetts Federal Diversity Group, Air National Guard Women of the Year 2010 program. The Certificates of Appreciation were signed and presented by Maj. Gen. Joseph Carter, MA Adjutant General, during the Federal Women's Luncheon on Wednesday, 31 March at Joint Force Headquarters, Milford, MA. Also present were: (left to right) Col. James Keefe, Col. Peter Green, Capt. Michael Dibrindisi, Maj. Gen. Joseph Carter, Col. Sean Collins, and Col. EJ Gunning.



AF Officials Launch Language Program for Airmen

By 1st Lt. Gina Vaccaro McKeen, Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Officials at the Air Force Culture and Language Center recently launched a program designed to identify Airmen with foreign language abilities and foster those skills throughout their careers.

The Language Enabled Airmen Program, or LEAP, is the first career-long program designed to offer language-sustainment training for Airmen in diverse career fields.

“We need Airmen across all our Air Force specialties with foreign language skills and cultural understanding so we will be able to interact with our coalition partners across the globe,” said Lt. Col. Brian Smith, the deputy director of the AFCLC Language Department at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. “The unique aspect of this program is that Airmen will devote time to maintaining and enhancing their language abilities while pursuing their normal operational assignments.”

The idea behind LEAP is to find Airmen who speak a foreign language and ensure they maintain their abilities through individual customized sustainment plans.

The Selection Process

Airmen will be selected based upon their demonstrated potential to achieve higher levels of foreign language proficiency as measured by their past performance in language courses, their Defense Language Proficiency Test and Defense Language Aptitude Battery scores, and their previous foreign language exposure.

The minimum score required on the DLAB, which measures an individual’s propensity for learning a language, is 85. The DLPT measures one’s reading, writing and speaking capability in a specific language; and Airmen are required to have a minimum score of 1+/1+ to be eligible.

While program officials prefer Airmen who speak a foreign language, they will allow exceptions. If an Airman has an exceptional DLAB score but has no specific language training, he or she may be accepted on a provisional basis. Provisional Airmen have time restrictions to meet the minimum eligibility requirements.

Applicants are considered by a board that includes representatives from the Air Force ROTC, U.S. Air Force Academy, Air Force Personnel Center, Air Force Language and Culture Program office, and AFCLC. A board will be held each spring and summer.

The date for the next board has not been

set; however, a message will go out to Total Force Airmen at least 60 days before the board is scheduled to meet. Additionally, information on the program and application process is available at the AFCLC Web site, www.culture.af.edu. Interested Airmen may submit completed applications at any time.

All languages qualify; however, board members prioritize selections based on Air Force requirements.

Participating in LEAP

“Language is a perishable skill. We want to provide resources for Airmen who are interested in advanced foreign language development so they can maintain and enhance those skills throughout their careers,” Col. Smith said.

The focus of this program, he added, is to find Airmen who are both willing and able to continue their language training.

“When Air Force officials recognize skills you already have then encourage you and reward you for using them, it motivates you to continue,” Col. Smith said. “We want to develop a core group of Airmen across all Air Force specialties who can effectively communicate in at least one language other than English.”

Participants in the program will be required to complete up to three hours per week of online language training and are expected to reach and maintain a proficiency level of 2/2 or better on the DLPT. The maximum score is 5/5.

LEAP participants will take part in a language intensive training event of some kind within their first year of the program, then every year or two thereafter depending on the language difficulty and the ability to schedule around other career requirements. Potential opportunities include classroom training, study abroad and simulated immersion programs. The events could be offered anywhere in the world and require participants to communicate solely in the language of study.

“Language skills are critical in today’s global environment. With LEAP, we are looking to utilize our Airmen’s natural abilities and marry those natural gifts with Air Force requirements,” Col. Smith said. “LEAP invests in our people throughout their entire careers and potentially affects their professional development in a very positive way by increasing their effectiveness as expeditionary Airmen.”

LEAP officials seek to locate qualified Airmen early in their careers because of the length of time required to become proficient in a foreign language, Col. Smith added. Ideally, program officials would like Airmen with at least 10 years of active service remaining to ensure program participants can receive effective training in conjunction with their career progression.

The program is limited to officers and ROTC and academy cadets for now; however, the ultimate goal is to have 5 to 10 percent of the force active in the program at any time. Officials at the AFCLC emphasize that it will take a few years to get to this point and have said they are encouraged by the positive response across the Total Force.

Utilizing LEAP Airmen

Personnel at the AFCLC have created a web-enabled tracking system for LEAP participants that contains in-depth information about an Airman’s cultural and language skills, including education, training and experience.

With this new tracking system, officials can identify individuals with language skills in advance and forecast which positions, locations and languages will be needed or available in the future. This database provides Air Force leadership greater knowledge of the language resources they have available at any given time.

LEAP will allow officials to plan several years in advance for positions with language requirements and adjust incentive and recruiting programs accordingly, Col. Smith added.

“Now we can determine, for example, the specific number of Airmen the Air Force expects to get in a certain Air Force specialty in a given year, which of those Airmen have language skills, and which jobs related to those language skills might be available throughout an Airman’s career,” he said. “The tracking system will allow us to predict where gaps in our capabilities will surface so we can focus recruiting, scholarships and opportunities to shape the force for future Air Force demands.

“We have always had Airmen with remarkable talents and skills,” Col. Smith continued. “Language and cultural understanding are valuable resources that can benefit the Air Force mission every day.”

To find out more about LEAP or to download an application, visit the AFCLC Web site.

Meet Your Family Readiness Board



Front left to right

Pat Connors - Chairperson

Lyn Richards - Secretary

Kneeling Tina Dimino-Frazer - Youth Coordinator,

Sandy Wakefield - Wing Family Coordinator

Cindy Patnode - Treasurer

Missing Beth St.Clair, Co-Chair



Each month one Family Readiness Board Member will be featured

Lyn Richards — Secretary

Lyn Richards has been a volunteer with the 104th Family Readiness Group for the past nine years, and has served as the Board Secretary for the last two years. Lyn and her husband John have been regular volunteers at the spaghetti dinners as well as many of the other 104th Family Readiness functions throughout the year. She has regularly attended the Massachusetts National Guard Family Conferences to stay current on all the needs of military families.

Each year the Massachusetts National Guard presents one Army and one Air National Guard "Outstanding Family Readiness and Support

Award" to a person, family or group. At this year's Massachusetts National Guard Family Conference held in Southbridge, MA on the weekend of 23 - 25 April 2010, John and Lyn Richards were presented with this prestigious award. Their names will also be inscribed on a plaque at HQ Mass ANG in Milford, MA. Lynn also received the bronze Presidential Volunteer Award for her volunteer service of over 100 hours.

Lyn is the manager of Valley Marketing in Southamptn. Valley Marketing also has been a long time supporter of the base, donating over fourteen thousand "Support Our Troops" bumper stickers during past deployments, and annually

donates Red Sox schedules, and many other donations of raffle items throughout the year.

Lyn lives in Southamptn, MA, and in her spare time enjoys cooking and gardening, both activities are interrupted as she stops to watch each and every F-15 as it flies over. Lyn has two children, John, Equine Facilities Director at Johnson & Wales University, and TSgt. Aaron Richards, a Crew Chief at the 104th Fighter Wing.

Lyn is proud and honored to "be able to assist the men and women and their families who serve us.....Thank you all for your service".

Hyperthermia Warning By Safe Kids USA

Summer is upon us, and the risks of Hyperthermia caused by parents leaving children alone in vehicles, even for a short time, increase during the season. Please pass on this toolkit to your installations that provides information for parents on the dangers of leaving children alone in vehicles, and tips to prevent it from happening in the future.

Safe Kids USA and more than 40 other organizations to increase awareness and urge caregivers to NEVER LEAVE YOUR CHILD ALONE in a vehicle. In an effort to make 2010 the year when no children die from heat stroke when they are "forgotten" in cars, safety experts and child advocates remind parents and caregivers to check for sleeping children before leaving a vehicle.

Between 1998-2009, four hundred and forty five (445) children died from heat stroke because they were unattended in vehicles that became too hot for them to survive. "A child's body heats up 3-5 times faster than an adult's and



unattended children have no way of protecting themselves in a hot vehicle."

More than 50% of the children who died from heat stroke were "forgotten" by a caring adult who became distracted when they left the vehicle.

Thirty percent of affected kids gained entry into an unlocked vehicle, became trapped and were overcome by heat when they were unattended by an adult. It takes only minutes for a child to be at risk of death and serious, permanent

injury in a hot car. Drivers must keep car doors locked and keys out of reach from young children.

For more information go to www.safekids.org/nlyca

For Your Information

Fallen Soldier, MIA in 1944, Returns Home

MA NG Press Release

MILFORD, Mass. — Army Staff Sgt. John J. Farrell Jr, Missing in Action since November 1944, will return home for proper burial on Wednesday, April 28, 2010. Farrell, born in 1922 in Arlington, was a member of Company A, 112th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division assigned to Europe during WWII.

On November 2, 1944, the 28th Infantry Division prepared for battle in the Huertgen Forest in Germany. The mission was to attack and secure critical villages, specifically Vossenack, Kommerscheidt, and Schmidt. After initial success, Soldiers of the 112th Infantry Regiment held Vossenack, Kommerscheidt, and Schmidt, but unfavorable weather conditions and poor logistical planning left the soldiers to defend the newly gained territory without air or tank protection.

On 5 November, 1944, German Soldiers, heavily supported by tanks, attacked the American troops. Although the Soldiers of the 112th Infantry Regiment fought valiantly, they could not hold their position against the superior firepower of the Germans. By 8 November, 1944 the men of the 112th Infantry Regiment had fallen back to their assembly area. The 112th Infantry Regiment suffered heavy casualties with over 2000 men killed, wounded, captured, or otherwise missing.

Farrell, serving as assistant squad leader with Company A, was declared Missing in Action on November 8, 1944 and was subsequently promoted to Staff Sgt. In 1950, the Adjutant General's Office reviewed Farrell's case noting that the 200 missing Soldiers were "lost during the defense and with-



drawal of Kommerscheidt during enemy counter-attack and were absent upon reorganization of the company. No search could be conducted as the area in which they were missing, was in enemy hands."

In September 2008, German EOD teams conducting a sweep of a proposed construction site near Huertgen Forest uncovered Farrell's remains and an identification tag bearing his name.

Memorial Day History

Compiled from the History Channel

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's [Civil War](#) dead by decorating their graves. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of [Civil War](#) soldiers, by proclamation of General [John A. Logan](#) of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former sailors and soldiers. On May 5, 1868, Logan declared in General Order No. 11 that:

The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

During the first celebration of Decoration Day, [Gen. James Garfield](#) made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery.

This 1868 celebration was inspired by local observances of the day in several towns throughout America that had taken place in the three years since the [Civil War](#). In fact, several Northern and Southern cities claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day, including Columbus, Miss.; Macon, Ga.; Richmond, Va.; Boalsburg, Pa.; and Carbondale, Ill.

In 1966, the federal government, under the direction of President [Lyndon Johnson](#), declared Waterloo, N.Y., the official birthplace of Memorial Day. They chose Waterloo—which had first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—because the town had made Memorial Day an an-



nual, community-wide event during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

By the late 1800s, many communities across the country had begun to celebrate Memorial Day and, after [World War I](#), observances also began to honor those who had died in all of [America's wars](#). In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May. ([Veterans Day](#), a day set aside to honor all veterans, living and dead, is celebrated each year on November 11.)

Vietnam: Service Remembered

Honoring a Sacrifice and Contribution to Freedom

Deadline for Submissions July 15

To members of the 104th Fighter Wing:

Do you have an immediate family member who served in the "Southeast Asian Theater" during the Vietnam War?

Father, Mother, Grandfather, Grandmother, Uncle or Aunt?

On Friday night, August 20th, the 104th Fighter Wing would like to honor their service at a special tribute. At this time, seating is limited to the first 300 attendance requests; attendance is limited to the honored veteran, 1 guest and the sponsor. As this is still in work, details and times for Friday evening have yet to be finalized, but will include period music, displays and artifacts from the Vietnam War.

If you have questions regarding the tribute please direct them to:

Master Sgt. Lynne Bolduc, ext 1288 or email: lynne.bolduc@ang.af.mil (invites/guest list)

Chief Master Sgt. Jack Major, ext 1071 or email: john.major@ang.af.mil (overall reception)

Please look for signup sheets in your orderly rooms!!!



What's My Line Winner!



(Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis)

Last month's winner is:

*Why is there smoke in the cockpit?
Damn maintainers!* Submitted by
Chief Master Sgt. Robert Beaulieu

Last month's runners-up are:

"IFE smoke in the cockpit again"
Submitted by Senior Airman
Nicholas Hebert

*Courage is being scared to death...
and saddling up anyway. "John
Wayne"* Submitted by Tech. Sgt.
Kristin Martin

"Did someone say Light-em Up!!?"
Submitted by Senior Master Sgt.
Rob Sabonis

*"Someone dismantled the smoke
alarm in this airplanes lavatory"*
Submitted by Maj. Matt Mutti

What's My Line?



(Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis)

Submit your funny, creative and appropriate caption for the photo on the right. We will run the winner and a runner-up in next months AirScoop.
Submit your entry to: 104fw.pa@ang.af.mil

Welcome to our Newest Members

Tiffany Slaven	MOF
Michael Nevue	FSS
Tyler Cullen	MXS
Bryan Plaza	CES
Christopher James	MDG
Mitchell Kleciak	MXS
Michael Barrera	MXS
Abraham Diaz	MDG
Brittaney Rissanen	MDG
Craig Borghesani	SFS
Ryan Labonte	MXS

Congratulations to our Retirees

Moriarty, Matthew	LRS	6 May 10
Viamari, Gino	MXS	10 May 10
Buckowski, Richard	LRS	14 May 10
Baker, Richard	FSS	1 Jun 10
McGrath, David	FW	14 Jun 10
Daniels, John	SFS	31 Jul 10
Pisano, Douglas	SFS	31 Jul 10
Belbin, Timothy	MXS	30 Aug 10

Commissary Case Lot Sale

Westover Air Reserve Base
 Friday, June 4th from 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm
 Saturday, June 5th from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm
 Sunday, June 6th from 9:30 am to 5:00pm

Cash, Checks or Credit Cards will be accepted

All order should be completed no later than May 15th.
 Order sheets will be available at the Family Program
 Office x1183

Additional items will be available for purchase on a
 first come basis while supplies last!

Congratulations on your Promotions

To Senior Airman (E-4)

Joshua Clark, 104 SFS
 Jared Collins, 104 MXS
 Tony Daponde 104 AMXS
 Patrick Decaro 104 MDG
 Carl Mathieu, 104 CF
 Jenna Watters, 104 MDG



To Staff Sergeant (E-5)

Bryan Vanas, 104 AMXS
 Wayne Wilson, 104 SFS



To Technical Sergeant (E-6)

Edward Hague, 104 FW
 Joseph Harbachuck, 104 AMXS
 Mark Mangini, 104 AMXS
 Jeremiah McClosky, 104 CES
 Shawn Teats, 104 AMXS
 Christopher Torres, 104 SFS



To Master Sergeant (E-7)

Tina Dimino-Frazer 104 MSG



To Senior Master Sergeant (E-8)

Dennis Desroches, AMXS
 Wayne Tower, AMXS



To Chief Master Sergeant (E-9)

Robert Beaulieu, AMXS
 Todd Sheffield, LRS



Religious Services

Saturday, 1 May, at 1730 in the following locations:

Catholic service will be held in the MDG large classroom, building 29, room #41.

Protestant service will be held in the MDG small classroom, building 29, room #5.

This Month in History

The back cover of the Airscoop will now be dedicated to the history of the unit and the Air Force. We will feature historic covers or articles from the archives and highlight a few historic headlines. (side note) From 1947 to 1954 the Base Newspaper was named the Thunderbolt. The first official Copy of the Airscoop was published in January 1954.

MAY HEADLINES:

1955 - the first known airborne H-bomb exploded over Bikini Atoll in the Pacific proving grounds. Major David Critchlow, USAF, dropped the hydrogen bomb from a Boeing B-52 8-engine jet bomber from an altitude of 50,000 feet.

1961 - The first American in space went there on May 5, 1961. He was Commander Alan B. Shepard Jr. USN. He became the first American to cross the space frontier in a Redstone rocket which blasted the Project Mercury (MR-3) "Friendship 7" capsule to an altitude of 115 miles at a maximum speed of 51,000 mph. The flight lasted 15 minutes and traveled 302 miles.

2007 - The public hearing for the Environmental Impact Study (EIS), a requirement for the F-15 conversion, took place at the North Middle School in Westfield. The National Guard Bureau completed the EIS in December 2007.



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